

# The World

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## REINSPECTION OF THE BOATS.

Secretary Cortelyou has ordered that "reinspection of the excursion boats which will more thoroughly inspect" which The World called for immediately after the Gen. Slocum disaster. It was the step urgently demanded in the circumstances as a first precautionary measure to prevent a repetition of the catastrophe. Taken now more deliberately its effect should be no less salutary and no conflict of authority, such as is reported, should be permitted to occasion its further postponement.

A reinspection now will reveal fewer violations of the law than would have been the case last week because of the moral influences which have been at work. The inspectors will discover a full complement of life-preservers on vessels which until recently lacked it, and will doubtless note the brand new appearance of many of them. Not in vain have the Pittsburgh factories been working overtime to fill New York orders for car-load lots. It is very likely that they will find the fire-fighting apparatus furnished up, the paint and oil store rooms free of old rags and the life rafts ready for emergency.

These changes as being in line with probable recommendations are all the more satisfactory for having been made voluntarily. But there will remain much for the inspectors to scrutinize and take note of beyond the outward and superficial provisions for safety. Their reports will undoubtedly justify the unprecedented duty to which they have been assigned.

## CITY BEAUTIFUL SHORTCOMINGS.

Commenting in its issue of June 1 on "The City Beautiful Fallacy," The Evening World asked: "Why is the erection sanctioned in the centre of the Seventy-second street plaza of a subway station approach architecturally out of harmony with its surroundings and obtruding offensively on a fine street prospect?"

As this architectural misfit nears completion its inappropriateness is more glaringly revealed. According to yesterday's Herald, "Residents of the upper west side decried it as inartistic and declare that as a public structure it is hardly in keeping with the plans for the City Beautiful."

Who is responsible for it? Mr. John De Witt Warner says that the Municipal Art Commission is not concerned in the matter because, the expenditure involved being less than \$1,000,000, it did not come within the commission's province; for which he is "sincerely glad." As it is a building designed for public uses the plans should have been passed on by competent authority before their final adoption.

As The Evening World has said, it is the regular addition to the city's public works of structures inartistic in themselves or clashing with their environment which postpones and may ultimately defeat the realization of the ideals of a City Beautiful. The ugly viaduct, the architecturally defective fire house or police station, and the general sacrifice of beauty to utility or economy in municipal construction, tends to nullify the best endeavors toward the artistic betterment of the metropolis.

**Dan Emmett and the Passing Minstrel.**—The death of the negro minstrel, Dan Emmett, occurs just at the time of the proposal of the Emancipation of the Confederacy to "revive" and improve upon the words which the Southern soldiers sang to his lively "Dixie." Most popular war songs have had a like humble and unofficial origin, whence the frequent triviality of the text. Emmett's death will call attention anew to the passing of negro minstrelsy from the stage. It is a loss to the amusement world for which modern vaudeville development by no means compensates. It was a rude and somewhat primitive but original and native form of entertainment which amused two English-speaking worlds.

## LAW AND ORDER NORTH AND SOUTH.

On Wednesday, for the second time within six months, the Governor of Mississippi ordered out the troops to protect a negro from mob violence. Gov. Vardaman is not a friend of the blacks. Yet he exercised his authority to save the life of a citizen. Gov. Montague, of Virginia, pursued a similar course at Norfolk to protect a negro culprit.

On the same day on which the Mississippi Governor was vindicating the good name of the State a body of two hundred men and women at Collinsville, N. J., hark by respectable Morristown, went to the house of a man whose moral character was objectionable to the community, called him out, kicked and beat him and, as is reported, slipped a clothesline noose around his neck and attempted to hang him.

So far as can be learned no officer of the law, no village constable, or sheriff, or Governor, interfered to protect this victim of popular vengeance. The leader of the crowd is reported to have said that "the deserved lynching." At any rate he seems to have come near it, and his narrow escape furnishes an interesting commentary on the quality of the law and order sentiment in New Jersey as contrasted with that in Mississippi.

The efforts of the Automobile Club to do away with grade-crossing dangers should be all the more appreciated because of the implied recognition of the share the automobile contributes to those dangers.

## THE WHIST CONGRESS.

A very informing idea of the increased popularity of whist is given by the attendance of 250 delegates at the fourteenth congress of the American Whist League which began its session in New York Monday. Many of those taking part in the congress are women, the members of auxiliary associations.

In the twenty years since "Whist or Bumblepuppy" satirized the shortcomings of whist players the literature of the game has attained formidable proportions. It would be possible to fill a roomy shelf with the works of standard authorities on what has become, intellectually at least, the "great American game." Its place in popular esteem is established and secure in spite of the inroads of "bridge."

One of the noteworthy results of the general vogue of the game is the development of the professional instructor. There are reports of whist teachers with incomes exceeding those of cabinet officers. As a new field for feminine activity the teaching of whist has provided an occupation as remunerative as it is congenial.

Jersey City has commendably put Fourth of July cannon, guns and pistols under the ban of the law. It is to be hoped that the ordinance includes the toy pistol, the dead-end weapon of them all.

## Do Girls Wish They Were Boys?

By  
Nixola Greeley-Smith.



**"A** LARGE percentage of high school girls actually wish they were boys. We seem to be developing a female sex without a female character." So G. Stanley Hall, President of Clark University, Worcester, proclaimed to the National Educational Convention at St. Louis, Wednesday. And he was quite right.

Only the number of girls who wish they were boys is not confined to the high-school variety. Practically, the entire female sex cherishes this futile wish at some time or other. So long as the great desire of one's soul is for freedom, independence, the advantages of being a boy are obvious. Indisputable, and the tendency of all young minds, masculine or feminine, is to value freedom above all earthly things. But as we grow older and more insured to the confining limits in which fate has placed us, we settle down to the belief that comfort is of all things most to be desired, even though it be purchased at the expense of freedom. And once having reached this conclusion, we are content to be women, for it is undoubtedly more comfortable to be a woman than a man, to be worked for than to work, to be protected than to protect, to be loved than to love.

Little boys never wish they were little girls—in fact, they usually return with interest the sublime contempt the little girls entertain for them. Little boys are dirty. They have no pretty clothes. They would tear them and roll in the mud with them if they had. Wherein lies the advantage of being a little boy?

So the little girl argues until she reaches the sad age when her mother and her grandmother and her maiden aunts begin to tell her that girls must not do this and girls must not do that, and when she produces the seemingly unanswerable argument that Tom and Dick and Harry do it and go unscolded, the whole fabric of her dreams is shattered by the rejoinder that Tom and Dick and Harry may because they are boys.

Tom and Dick and Harry may because they are boys, and she may not because she is a girl. At once the cheerfully despised object becomes a thing most cheerfully envied. And thereafter, her age and her envy grow together until, perhaps, she reaches the lazy thirties and the comfortably resigned forties, when, like some captive long imprisoned, she begins to hear music in the clanking of the chains that used to drive her to frenzy.

Seriously speaking, a girl usually wishes herself a boy until she falls in love. Then she is awfully glad she isn't. For what would poor Jack have had to fall in love with if she had been? Only the miserably inadequate, unworthy other girls of his acquaintance. Perish the thought!

"I used to wish I was a boy," said a newly engaged girl the other day, "but I don't any more. If I had been a man I would have had only girls to fall in love with, and I would never have met Tom."

But the state of being in love is, however prolonged, essentially transient, and when we have finally escaped it the desire for the larger masculine freedom returns.

Practically, the only thing that reconciles the girl who wants to be a boy to her fate is the superior beauty of feminine clothes. Liberty is undoubtedly a possession much to be desired, but the average woman would rather give up her life for it than sacrifice her chiffons and laces and feathers on its altar.

Men may say that it is silly for a woman to wish herself a man, that the state of being a man is not superior to that of being a woman, only different—"not equal, nor unequal." But why is it that there is no man so wretched, so broken on the ever-turning wheel of fortune, as to wish himself a woman?

To be sure, there have been cases of men masquerading as women, notably one a year or so ago, who explained the feminine garb which he had worn unsuspected for years by saying that it was easier for a woman to get employment as a cook than for a man. But his reasons were purely commercial and cannot be taken as indicating a genuine preference for the feminine lot.

Dr. Hall makes a mistake, however, in blaming this desire of women to be men on the higher education. It had existed since the beginning of time, and Eve undoubtedly wished that she was in her quaking husband's shoes when he uttered his characteristic and perennial excuse, "The woman that Thou gavest me tempted me."

## WENT HIM ONE BETTER.

Tess—Did you hear May's fiancé rhapsodizing over her complexion?  
Jess—Yes, he certainly did lay it on pretty thick.  
Tess—Yes, but not nearly as thick as May does.—Philadelphia Press

## WORTH WHILE.

I asked of my desolate shipwrecked soul  
"Wouldst thou rather never have met  
The one whom thou lovest beyond control  
And whom thou adorest yet?"

Back from the senses, the heart, the brain.  
Came the answer swiftly thrown,  
"What matter the price? we would pay it again.  
We have had, we have loved, we have known!"  
—Lawrence Hope, in "Stars of the Desert."

## The Great American GOOK, Oh, Fudge!

He Advises the Board of Aldermen How They May Celebrate the Opening of the Subway.

